

Wycombe keep it up: worthy winners against Maidstone

Sports Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE WANDS. 4 : MAIDSTONE ... 2

WYCOMBE Wanderers forwards maintained their recent improved form when they deservedly beat Maidstone United in a rain-soaked Isthmian League fixture.

Wycombe Wanderers: Brown; Worley, D Atkins; Thomas, Fisher, Beck; Bates, L Worley, S Bressington, Holmes, Hyde.

Maidstone: Wiltshire; Craddock, Everest; Waters, Baker, Cutbush; Hobbs, Warnett, Acland, Myers, Dowler.

Referee: D Marnoch (Wanstead).

The first thrill came from a Maidstone attack when Warnett cleverly back-heeled to Acland whose powerful shot was well saved by Brown.

The speed and precision of the visiting forwards looked likely to provide a stiff test for the home defence, but it was Wycombe who took the lead six minutes after the start.

When Holmes was fouled by Craddock just outside the penalty area, Bates took a free-kick and tapped the ball to ATKINS, whose powerful kick completely deceived goalkeeper Wiltshire.

Within a minute, however, Maidstone had equalised, WARNETT heading the ball out of Brown's hands after a centre by Dowler.

A sparkling solo run by Worley restored Wycombe's lead eight minutes later, BRESSINGTON heading his perfect centre neatly into the corner of the goal.

Twice, Brown saved well in determined Maidstone counter

attacks, notably with a last-minute tip over the crossbar from Hobbs.

The standard of play was surprisingly high in the wretched weather conditions.

Worley and Bates were always prominent in the Wycombe front line and twice Bressington tested Wiltshire. Holmes almost scored just before the interval.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 2, Maidstone Utd. 1.

The Wycombe goalkeeper Brown was injured in the first minute of the second half when he threw himself at the feet of Myers to check a threatening advance. He was able to resume after attention.

Four minutes after the restart another brilliant run by Worley, who had changed places with Bates, produced a third goal for Wycombe, HOLMES cleverly flicking the ball wide of the goalkeeper.

Wiltshire just beat Bressington to the ball in another Wycombe attack and immediately afterwards he dived full length to stop a scorching left foot drive by Worley.

Maidstone's attacks were less frequent, but always dangerous.

There was a thrill for the home crowd when Holmes beat several defenders in a solo run only to see his shot brilliantly saved by Wiltshire, who followed it up with another smart clearance from Bates.

Again Maidstone hit back. Following a good move on the left wing WARNETT smacked the ball in through a crowd of players after half an hour.

But nine minutes from the end BATES scored the best goal of the match with a swerving left foot shot after a brilliant solo run.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE WAN. 4
MAIDSTONE U. 2